

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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SUN'S HEAT MAY TAKE MEN TO THE MOON

SPACE-SHIP ENGINE THAT NEEDS NO FUEL

THE idea of a ship which can leave the confines of this world and navigate the bottomless ocean of outer space has long been a source of profit for imaginative authors, but in our time this flight of fancy has become the subject of serious study.

The writers, however, have one very great advantage over the practical designer—their space-ships have a fictitious engine powered by an equally fictitious fuel.

NOT A REGULAR CUSTOMER

The butcher's shop had just opened for the day. In the window hung sides of mutton, beef, and pork, and the benches were covered with fresh sausages, and juicy steaks. (The reader will have gathered by now that this was not in Britain.)

A light breeze wafted the good smell down to the river. The crocodiles there scented the fresh meat, and one of them decided to investigate.

He climbed out of the water, ambled along the grassy bank, and then, when he was sure of the direction set off briskly.

When the butcher looked down a huge crocodile was at the door, eyeing the mutton and beef with a knowledgeable air.

The man gave a yell, and in a moment the whole town—including the police force—was on the scene—at a respectful distance.

This strange episode—which took place not far from Leopoldville, in the Belgian Congo—ended with the reptile being interned in the local Zoo.

Interested in Cybernetics?

A CONGRESS of Cybernetics has been held in Paris.

Now cybernetics is not one of the ills that human flesh is heir to—though it sounds rather painful; it is the study of communication and contact devices, and among the exhibits was a robot chess player which plays against a human opponent.

This robot never commits a fault, and even flashes a light to point out its opponent's errors. After three such mistakes the machine "sulks" and stops playing.

Other exhibits were two mechanical tortoises which avoid obstacles in their path and look for "food" when "hungry" by going back to the machine which recharges their batteries.

BATS IN THE BEECH

WHEN an ancient beech tree was felled at St Boswells, in Roxburghshire, nearly 700 hibernating bats were found huddled in a large hole in the trunk. Bats often hibernate in hollow trees, but rarely are more than 20 found together.

One of the biggest single problems in designing interplanetary craft is to find suitable driving power. The liquid fuel rocket motor, such as the V-2 rocket used, is excellent as far as it goes—but it does not go far enough, for it uses a tremendous amount of fuel in a short time.

It would be possible to build a rocket of this type now, which would be quite capable of reaching the moon—but it would not have any fuel left to make the return journey. Another reason why nobody is building such a moon-rocket yet is the fabulous cost.

Scientists tell us that some form of atomic engine will probably be used to power the first successful space-ship. This would also be very costly—more so than the liquid-fuel rocket—but would not require so much room.

Strips of metal

Now another possible type of power plant has been suggested—one using the sun's heat as a source of power.

Anyone who studied science at school will probably know what a thermocouple is—simply two strips of different metal fastened together. If this bi-metal strip is heated it will develop a small electric current. It will act like a small battery, in fact.

The proposed new engine is nothing more than a number of these thermocouples connected together. Thousands and thousands of them would be attached around the outside of the space-ship, all connected up so that the electrical energy that one produced would be added to the next, and so on. This would provide a very considerable source of power—sufficient, it is claimed, to propel a space-ship.

Power for nothing

The heat to form the electric current in the thermopile would come directly from the sun. One side of the thermocouple would be facing outwards towards the sun, the other inwards or "in the shade."

The difference in temperature would become greater the higher the thermocouple ascended, because as the air thinned out to practically nothing the contrast between sunshine and shade would increase to extremes.

If such an "engine" would work it would cost nothing to run and require no fuel. Excursion fares to the moon should be cheap!



ATC is 10

Fourteen-year-old Cadet Kerrison of the ATC, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this month. See page 7

World's best time-keeper

IN a few months' time the citizens of Copenhagen will have no excuse for being late, for what is claimed to be the world's best timekeeper is to be placed in their town hall.

This is a clock which will lose only a second in 1000 years, and one that not only tells our earthly time, but also sidereal or astronomical time.

It has ten faces and gives the date, month, position of the sun and planets, indicates where and when eclipses of the Sun and Moon will take place, and on which day any date in the next 4000 years will fall. Part of its mechanism ticks only once a year, and its slowest-moving wheel would take 25,700 years to make a complete turn.

This wonderful clock has rather a sad story, however. Its complexities were all worked out by Jens Olsen, the Danish astro-mechanic, who devoted his life to the task. Not until 1944 was enough raised to begin building it, and Jens Olsen died in 1945 before his great clock could be completed.

It will be kept in a stainless steel and mahogany airtight case in a room specially built with reinforced foundations, so that street traffic vibrations shall not disturb its fine mechanism.

K O FOR SHARK

WHEN a bottle-nosed shark attacked a diver who had gone down to examine a wreck at Mackay, North Queensland, it was hit on the head with a hammer and beaten off.

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PURSE PROBLEM

THE increase in the cost of living is one of the major problems affecting us all today. Here a CN economic correspondent explains why food and almost everything else has risen in price.

As every mother knows, most rationed goods have gone up only a little in price, but unrationed goods are now very costly indeed. Fish is scarce and expensive, a pound of ham costs ten shillings, the price of blankets has soared, and so, too, have pencils.

The prices of our rationed foods are, of course, strictly controlled. This means the Government forbid traders to charge more than a stated price; but we should realise that these prices are often kept low because the Government use taxpayers' money as part of their own payment for the goods supplied to the home market. But even here it has become impossible to keep the prices stable. In recent months eggs, cheese, and bacon, for example, have cost the housewife more.

Going to market

Now, when they make their purchases in bulk, the Government cannot keep the prices down by law. The reason is that this country cannot supply all it needs. As a nation, we live by trade, and so we have to go, as it were, to the market (and practically the whole world is our market) to sell the things we produce and in return buy the things we need.

But, as in the local market, familiar to us all, our Government are not the only buyers or, for that matter, the only sellers. There are other people who also wish to buy and sell. And some of them are in a great hurry to buy as much as possible of such precious materials as

wool, rubber, tin, cotton, and steel lest war should come and find them short of essential supplies. This stock-piling, as it is called, has been going on since the outbreak of the Korean conflict last summer. Obviously, when countries like U.S.A., Britain, France, and Russia compete for goods, prices must go up.

Thus we, as a nation, have not much say in how world market prices behave, and if they rise we must pay the price—if we want the goods. And so, as her people cannot go without sugar, or cotton, or rubber, or wool, Britain has to pay more.

Housewives pay more

Eventually, however, it is the housewife who has to pay the extra cost of her tiny portion of the goods, be it an egg or a skein of wool, bought for her in an overseas market.

This also explains the shortage of meat. The Argentine people who used to sell us a large part of our beef say: "We have to pay much more for your industrial goods than we did a year or two ago, so you must pay more for our beef."

Our reply is that we are ready to pay more, but not quite as much as they demand. We insist that we are entitled to some concession because with 50 million people in these islands we give Argentina the finest market.

These two points of view have yet to be reconciled, but there is no clearer example of how the cost of living in this island of ours is affected by the prices we have to pay in world markets.

Saying it with Psalms

DURING recent operations against terrorists in the Malayan jungle some R.A.F. Dakotas dropped supplies to a party of Malayan Scouts. After collecting the supplies the Malayan Scouts sent a radio message to the Dakota squadron: "Troops very impressed by the way drop was carried out, and wish to convey their admiration and gratitude. See Psalm 78, verses 27 and 28."

The airmen soon discovered that the message read: "He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea. And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations."

Not to be outdone in Biblical reference, they replied: "Your signal greatly appreciated. See Psalm 9, verse 18." This, of course, reads: "For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever."

WELL DONE, VALERIE

THREE days after her ninth birthday Valerie Brown of Edinburgh passed with distinction the final grade of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music. This is an examination not usually taken until the late teens, and it included a Prelude and Fugue by Bach, a Sonata by Mozart, and a Prelude by Lennox Berkeley.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

SEVERAL BITES

Some 4265 minor casualties were treated at London Zoo in 1950. Some visitors were victims of monkey bites, and one was bitten—you'd never believe it—by a mouse.

The Colonial Development Corporation are considering a plan for a 40,000-acre cattle ranch west of Belize, in British Honduras, to produce meat for local consumption and save dollar imports.

India's first national stadium, modelled on the lines of Wembley Stadium, has been opened by Mr Nehru, Prime Minister of India.

United Kingdom exports in 1950 were 21 per cent higher than in 1949. The volume of imports was virtually unchanged but their cost was about 14 per cent more.

Lessons as usual

When the janitors of schools in Minneapolis went on strike recently teachers launched a programme of home instruction by television. Using the local broadcasting station they conducted classes in all the usual subjects for two hours daily.

Earl Mountbatten, Commodore for Sea Scouts, has made available a bursary of £120 so that a Sea Scout can take part in the forthcoming Iceland expedition of the British Schools Exploring Society.

Shafiqur Rahman Kidwai, a leading Indian educationist, has begun work in Indonesia under the Unesco technical assistance programme to help to lower the illiteracy rate of Indonesia and to train thousands of demobilised soldiers as teachers.

Motoring organisations have recommended that the torch road-sign warning of schools be replaced by an international sign showing two children at the kerb.

The Ramsgate branch of Our Dumb Friends' League saved some 40 of the 60 sea-birds brought in during January covered with oil, helpless, and starving.

German sausages and meat specialities will soon be seen again on British and American breakfast tables. Before the war these foodstuffs earned about £5,000,000 a year abroad.

9 bob a nob

Barbers in Washington and New York have raised the price of a haircut to 9s.

Twenty-eight New Zealand Boy Scouts and Rovers in a fleet of 13 canvas canoes made a 10-day journey down the Wanganui River from Taumarunui to Wanganui, a distance of 147 miles. They reported daily progress by carrier pigeons.

Lambeth Borough Council are to spend £4757 "re-doing" the Lambeth Walk where it has been worn smooth by cesters' carts.

In America it is possible to buy boxes of sweets that light up in the dark and enable TV viewers to select hard or soft centres without disturbing the rest of the family.

MONEY FOR YOUTH

King George's Jubilee Trust have approved grants totalling £62,610 for distribution this year to 34 youth organisations in Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraging the physical, mental, and spiritual welfare of the younger generation.

The North Midlands Regional Board for Industry have suggested that until mid-March the BBC should close down between 8 and 9.30 a.m. and between 4 and 5.30 p.m.; this is to remind listeners of the fuel crisis.

On the anniversary of the Coronation, May 12, the King will inspect a parade of the British Legion in Hyde Park. The last royal inspection was in 1937.

TV in the West

A new high-power television station covering the Bristol Channel area is to be erected on St Lythans Downs, near Wenvoe, about five miles west of Cardiff. It will serve about 3,500,000 people.

The aircraft-carrier *Eagle*, launched by Princess Elizabeth at Belfast in 1946, has arrived in the Mersey for trials before being handed over to the Admiralty.

The Danish hospital ship *Jutlandia*, 8500 tons, presented to the United Nations by the Danish Government, is on her way to the Far East. She has accommodation for 200 patients, but can take 400 in an emergency.

British shipyards, according to Lloyd's Register, accounted for 1,389,000 tons of new shipbuilding last year, compared with 1,353,000 tons for 1949.

A shipload of snow is to be brought from Norway to provide a runway on the Braid Hills, Edinburgh, for ski-jumping contests on April 6 and 7. Similar contests will be seen on Hampstead Heath at the end of March.

Science studies the

tiny particles

ABSORBING facts about the behaviour of tiny particles emerge from the new science of micromeritics which is being studied by the United States Army Signals in conjunction with the University of Illinois. The name is taken from the Greek words meaning "small" and "part," and already it is seen how large a part the smallest of particles play in Nature's scheme.

Micromeritics in terms of size means that the particles are from one-fifth micron to 250 microns in diameter—that is from eight millionths to about a hundredth of an inch. Their most important property is the enormous increase in surface area when broken up. For example, an inch cube has a surface area of six square inches. When broken up to micron size it has a surface area of 60,000 square inches. A single gram of charcoal powder may have a surface area of 3,000,000 square inches.

Explosive and absorbent

This makes the particles extraordinarily "touchy," and aluminium when ground into powder burns with a fierce heat, coal becomes explosive, and even such substances as wheat, cocoa, and soya may explode. But particles have their good points, too, for charcoal in gas masks absorb poisonous gases in one-fifth of a second. In fact, owing to the large surface area of charcoal powders it can absorb and retain some thousands of times its own volume of gas.

Particles in the atmosphere are responsible for our blue skies. If it were not for these the sky would appear black where there are no clouds. Untold millions of particles in the atmosphere are also responsible for red sunsets, since they appear red by transmitted light and blue by reflected light.

OPERATION MALARIA

A LITTLE army of 48 Africans led by four Europeans have been winning the finest sort of battle in Southern Rhodesia. Armed with Gammexane, an insecticide produced by Imperial Chemical Industries, they have waged a campaign in the 2000 square miles of the Mazoe Valley, an important agricultural region where, formerly, some 70 Europeans and many Africans contracted malaria every year.

The Gammexane men sprayed 7000 rooms in European houses, and 70,000 native huts, and since they began operations there has not been a single case of malaria in this district. The Gammexane used is made in a South African factory.

Music while you arrive

INSTEAD of summoning men to work with a hooter a certain Clydeside firm plays records to greet them.

Sleepy apprentices ambling into the yard in the morning hear *Hey Johnny Cope*, *are Ye Wakened Yet?* and when they are looking for their tools the tune is changed to *Tally Ho! Tally Ho! A Hunting We Will Go!*



HATS FOR HARROW

Mr Tom Olney of Luton has been making hats for 52 years, and claims that his firm is the only one in Britain engaged in making straw boaters. For many years Mr Olney has supplied boaters to Harrow schoolboys. Here we see Mr Olney, himself wearing a Harrow boater, passing on some of the trade secrets to his son.

FELLOWSHIP

A FELLOWSHIP of Fell Walkers has been formed by Mr Ted Williams of Barley, near Burnley, Warden of the Whitehouse Youth Hostel, one of its aims being to make friends with the people of the countryside and to strengthen a bond which ramblers do not always help.

The design of the Fellowship badge is a pair of walking boots against a background of colours emblematic of the four seasons. Among the exacting conditions of membership is a preference for the trackless trail, rough rather than easy going, and willingness to walk in all seasons and weathers.

An order for one million sparking plugs received from Mexico by a British firm is the largest single order the firm has had since it started, 30 years ago.

EAT THAT CARTON!

Surrey County Council have been urged to ask ice-cream manufacturers to make cartons and wrappers of rice paper or other edible substances in the hope that this may prevent the countryside being littered with them.

The Girl Guides Association in Great Britain increased by 4000 Guides, 10,000 Brownies, and more than 1000 Commissioners, Guiders, and secretaries last year. Still more leaders are required.



Viking ship from Denmark

Choir boys and girls of Ashingdon Parish Church, Essex, built by King Canute in 1016, admire a model Viking ship presented by the Danish Travel Association. It will hang in the restored nave. £2000 is needed for repairs to the church, and subscription lists have been also opened in Denmark.

GOOD WORK OF GIRL GUIDES

The Guide International Service, with the Refugees Housing Society, recently opened a house in Wandsworth for elderly displaced people—Estonians, Latvians, and Poles—whose sons and daughters or other relatives are already at work in England.

When housing accommodation in England becomes easier they hope to join their relatives and so make room for others from the displaced people's camps in Germany.

Thirteen members of the Guide International Service who had continued their work in Resettlement Camps in Western Germany helped in distributing the thousand parcels sent by Girl Guides in Britain and overseas for displaced people. Nearly 2000 children in camps or hospital received presents and one old man was so touched when he heard his gift came from London that he played a thanksgiving tune on his trumpet.

AND THE SEAGULL LAUGHED

BILLY, a ginger kitten which is mascot of the R.N.V.R. Club training clipper *Garrick*, spotted a seagull perching on the ship's rail, leapt at the bird, missed, and fell into the Clyde. It managed to scramble on a floating log, and there, wet and wiser, waited while the ship's cook scrambled down a ladder and rowed to the rescue.

NEARLY 4 MILES DOWN

HOLE-DRILLERS in Mississippi are on the way to making the deepest hole in America. In their search for oil they have already bored down 20,000 feet, nearly four miles! The deepest hole in America is 20,521 feet, also made to find oil, but abandoned in June 1949.

The Mississippi borers are optimistic, for the greatest depth at which oil has been found so far is 15,530 feet. However, even if they do not strike oil, they are gaining much valuable information for the oil industry; their drills bring up samples of rock from these vast depths which enable geologists to decide where new wells should be drilled with the best chances of discovering fresh sources of oil.

WHY NOT?

THE juvenile section at Barking Library may soon become unique, for the Librarian is considering whether he should add to it a section for adults!

This is due to the great demand—by parents—for such favourites as *Alice in Wonderland* and Hans Andersen's *Fairy Tales*.

STICK-AND-POTATO YARN

SCHOOLCHILDREN can spin wool into yarn with no more elaborate equipment than some wool, a stick, and a potato, declared a speaker at a recent meeting of the Wool Education Society.

This method is similar to that used by primitive men when they first progressed from wearing skins to making cloth, and it is still the method of Arabs and some peoples of Northern Africa.

It is, of course, founded on the principle that if you pull a strand from a lump of wool it will break, but if you twist it as you pull you will get a thread.

The potato-stick method is to fix a potato, or any convenient heavy object, to the end of a stick, and attach a strand of wool to the stick. Then, holding the lump of wool in one hand, you give the stick a twist. The weight at the bottom will make it go on turning and drawing the wool out into a thread until it reaches the ground, when you pick up the stick and repeat the process.

GIANT EYE

ONE of the six largest telescopes in the world will be on view in the Dome of Discovery at the Festival Exhibition in London, though unfortunately it will be impracticable to permit visitors to view the heavens through it. It is the 74-inch reflecting telescope now being built by Sir Howard Grubb Parsons and Company for the Australian Observatory at Mount Stromlo, near Canberra.

The latticework telescope tube is about 30 feet long and eight feet in diameter, and its moving parts weigh about 40 tons, yet the slightest push will move it.

The only other telescope in the Southern Hemisphere comparable to it in size is that at the Radcliffe Observatory, Pretoria.

MADJINGAI AND NYIMANG

THE British and Foreign Bible Society has announced that gospels have recently been translated into three more languages. The Gospel of St John has been made available in Madjingai, a dialect of the Sara tongue spoken in districts of the Lake Chad area, bordering French Equatorial Africa.

St Mark's gospel is being printed for the first time in Nyimang, a dialect peculiar to the inhabitants of the Nuba mountains, a range forming the western ridge of the basin of the White Nile. St Mark has also been translated into Riang Lang, a language spoken by a tribe in the Southern Shan states, Burma, numbering about 12,000.

EDUCATION BY RADIO

IN Great Britain many grown-ups like listening to school broadcasts, according to a new Unesco publication, *Broadcasting to Schools* (Stationery Office, 6s).

The publication surveys the school broadcasting services of 13 countries. It deals with many aspects of education by radio, and points out that these programmes do not replace the teacher or compete with him, but enrich and extend his work.

Willow Pattern



These are not elephants' tusks but bundles of willow canes from Madeira, used in making baskets.

FILMING A DRAMA OF CANTERBURY

MR T. S. ELIOT has himself acted in the film version of his great play *Murder in the Cathedral*. He has written several new scenes for this film, which is to be shown in London this year and afterwards distributed throughout the country.

The author took the part of the Fourth Tempter, and Canterbury Cathedral was represented in St Stephen's Church, St John's Wood. The sets, costumes, and so on—all hand-made—were copied from authentic material of the period.

GROWING RESEARCH

RADIO-ACTIVE fertilisers are being used at the Agricultural Research Station, Long Ashton, Somerset.

Crops of tomatoes, potatoes, and cereals are being treated and then tested to see how much radio-active phosphorus has been absorbed. In this way it is hoped to discover how much nutriment is obtained from the soil and how much from the fertiliser.

LITTLE GENTLEMAN IN BLACK

CHANGING fashions are said to be responsible for the increase in the mole population; parts of the South Downs, for instance, are infested with these tiny creatures.

Time was when fashion decreed the possession of a mole-skin muff or a moleskin waistcoat. Today the feminine muff has been replaced by the fur-lined glove, and the moleskin waistcoat by the woollen pullover.

As trapping the mole is no longer profitable, their numbers have increased; and so, of course, have "hills" and tunnels on downland and pastures.

Little harm is done by these excavations, except where the moles infest land used for the

exercise of riding horses; then they can be a real menace to life and limb. The death of William the Third was ascribed to a molehill, and was long afterwards responsible for a toast being drunk by supporters of the Stuart cause to "The little gentleman in black."

Driven into exile by the expulsion of James the Second from the throne, they hated the victorious William, and when his death from pleurisy followed a riding accident in Hampton Court Park when his horse stumbled over a molehill, they were prepared to credit the mole with discernment as notable in its way as that of the lion of Androcles.

MAKING MINES SAFER

A NEW warning system which may save the lives of many miners has been invented.

After the Creswell colliery fire disaster, in which 80 men and boys perished, Mr Dickinson, an electrician at Westwood colliery, Nottingham, gave his attention to devising an alarm which would give an immediate warning in all parts of a pit. Working in his spare time he has succeeded in perfecting a pit alarm, now officially approved, which is to be given a trial.

The principle upon which the system works is that if the electric current in the circuit is broken the alarm will sound automatically. A fall of roof in the underground workings or a fire disconnecting the wire would set the alarm in action immediately.

INSURANCE BY SLOT-MACHINE

FOUR SHILLINGS-IN-THE-SLOT insurance machines are to be installed at London airports. A passenger puts a couple of two-shilling pieces in the slot, and out comes an insurance policy for £2000 on a postcard, which is stamped with the time and date by another slot machine.

The traveller can then address the policy to a friend for safe keeping and action in the event of an accident to the plane.

The policy remains in force for 24 hours from the time stamped on it.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD PLANES?

THE aircraft industry has always been a pioneering industry—one in which an adventurous youth can make his mark," writes Mr W. T. Gill of Rolls-Royce in his foreword to *Your Future in Aircraft Engineering*.

This is an illustrated brochure issued by the Society of British Aircraft Constructors to describe the apprenticeship training policy in the industry. It shows how boys of different ages and educational accomplishment can find a place in the design and construction of aircraft and engines.

It is being distributed free to schools, and can also be obtained from the Technical Secretary, Summit House, 12 Langham Place, London W1.

MONEY TALKS

MR C. F. COBBOLD, Governor of the Bank of England, has flown to Australia and New Zealand for talks with bankers.

NIPSY

THE country's first Nipsy league has been founded by 50 miners at Hemmingfield, near Barnsley. Nipsy, often called "poor man's golf," is a summer game played with a wooden peg instead of a ball. Each team has five players. Two fielders mark the nipsy after each stroke, and two calculators measure the distance the nipsy has been hit.



A type of chameleon

This chameleon pet of the Reptile House laboratory staff at London Zoo is exploring the keys of a typewriter while enjoying a spell of exercise out of his cage.

LEARNING TO BE A FARMER

(2) Jobs for February's frosty days

The first article in this new series which began last month dealt with the importance of ploughing to get the land into what agriculturists call a "good heart." This month we find there are jobs for even the coldest of winter days—hedging and threshing.

DURING his second month at Grove Farm, Ian Farley learned that work on the farm goes on all the time—in rain, frost, and sunshine. Although there was plenty of fresh air, there was precious little sunshine about, and as the hard frost and snow made it impossible to work on the land, he spent practically the whole of the first two weeks of February trimming hedges. One day, soon after the thaw had set in, Mr Waring came to see what progress he was making.

"Well, Ian," he said, "how do you like this side of farming?"

"Oh, I like it very much," answered Ian, "chopping away with my slashing hook at these hedges is the only way I can keep warm in this weather, although it does get a bit monotonous after a while."

"Yes, I suppose it does," said the farmer, "but it's a very important job all the same. If we didn't cut the hedges back every year they would soon grow very big and rough, and besides taking up a lot of room that could be used for planting they



Hedging on a Hertfordshire farm

would soon begin to die out. Then they would no longer be of any use as fences because the cows and sheep would be able to escape through the gaps."

"Oh, yes," said Ian, "I can see that this is one of those jobs which must be done some time, and I suppose that now is the best time to do it, when the ground is too hard to cultivate. But now that the frost is going, will we be able to start cultivating the land ready for sowing corn?"

"No, I'm afraid not. It will be a week at least before we can start work on that job. You see, even when the frost has gone, the ground is left very wet, and if we were to start cultivating it in that condition we would 'puddle' it, that is, turn it into mud so that when it did dry out it would go very hard and the seeds would not germinate."

"I see what you mean," said Ian. Then he drew Mr Waring's attention to a large machine being drawn up the farm road by a tractor.

"Oh, that's the threshing machine, come to thresh out those few stacks of wheat," said the farmer. "Come on, we'll go and have a look at it."

By the time they reached the yard the driver had set up his machine next to the first stack,



Threshing on the banks of the River Tamar at Plymouth

and Mr Waring explained to Ian how it worked.

"The sheaves of corn are sent down the chute that you see starting from the top of the stack," he said, "then they are taken by an endless belt on to a large metal drum which looks rather like a long narrow barrel. This revolves at the rate of 1200 times a minute and beats the corn and chaff away from the straw. The straw, after passing over the 'shakers,' which shake the grain and chaff out of it, is pressed into bales. The grain and chaff, in their turn, are separated by passing over a riddle through which a strong stream of air is blown by a fan. The chaff is blown away and the

grain falls through and passes over several more finer riddles to separate out the small weed seeds. Finally the clean grain is delivered through a spout direct into sacks. Simple, isn't it?"

"Yes, it is, now that you've explained it," said Ian, "but it looked a frightfully complicated machine at first."

"All right then," said the farmer. "Now run along and get into old clothes because it's not a clean job, and we'll start."

As Ian went to change he thought that perhaps farming was not so complicated after all, once you knew how!

Next month's article on Learning to be a Farmer will cover the start of spring sowing.

300 YEARS BY THE THAMES

THE famous Thames-side wharf firm of Hay, established before the present great London docks were dreamt of, recently celebrated its 300th anniversary.

Hay's wharves stretch along the south side of the river between the Tower Bridge and London Bridge where in 1651, when Alexander Hay started the business, some three small ships a week tied up to unload their cargoes. Today, over 1,000,000 chests of tea and 1,750,000 tons of produce are unloaded at the wharves every year from ships up to 6000 tons.

Near Shakespeare's Globe

Alexander Hay did not at first intend to become a wharvinger. He took over a brewery near the Thames bank not far from where Shakespeare's Globe Theatre had stood. But he soon realised that there was more money to be made out of storing ship's cargoes, and he established warehouses.

Here, at the beginning of the 18th century, a pitiful human cargo arrived—a party of 1000 Huguenot refugees. The landlord of some of Hay's wharves at the time, Charles Cox, MP for Southwark, had offered to give shelter to these persecuted French people. He had not expected so many, however, and accommodation for them had to be hastily arranged at the wharves. They had no means of earning a living, and the Southwark ratepayers were not pleased at having to support them. In desperation Cox sent the Huguenots to America, where they played a great part in de-

veloping the State of South Carolina.

It was Joseph Hay, Alexander's son, who joined with neighbouring wharfingers in founding the first fire insurance association in Britain: for the warehouses of those days suffered frequently from fires. The association came to be known as the Hand in Hand.

In the 1860's Hay's Wharf began to receive the famous tea clippers, and since then the unloading and storing of tea has been one of the firm's important activities. Hay's Wharf was also one of the first to instal cold storage, and by means of it to import food in large quantities.

This old firm, therefore, is an excellent illustration of the steady growth of Britain's commerce.

BRITISH RAILWAY ENGINES

2. Mixed Traffic

THIS is a locomotive of the "Mixed Traffic" type, so called because it can be used to work passenger and freight trains alike.

A characteristic feature is that the coupled wheels, though smaller in diameter than those of normal express passenger engines, are still larger at 5-foot diameter than are those of

Getting a glimpse of a far-off world

By the C N Astronomer

THE planet Uranus is now well placed for observation during the evening. It is almost due south and very high up, not far from overhead, between 7 and 9 o'clock.

The planet's position can be located with the aid of the accompanying star-map if the sky is dark and clear and there is no bright artificial lighting near at hand.

The absence of moonlight just now will be an advantage, for Uranus appears to the unaided eye only a little brighter than a sixth magnitude star, so it is only just perceptible. Binoculars will therefore be a great help provided the exact locality of the planet can be noted. So let us find our way.

Betelgeuse, the brilliant red dish star at the upper left corner of the well-known group of Orion, which is due south at about 8 p.m., will point the way. If an imaginary line be drawn from Orion's Belt of three stars to Betelgeuse, and then continued north-eastwards for not quite twice as far, it will come to the group of bright stars shown in the star-map.

Castor and Pollux

The position of Uranus among these may then be found. These stars are part of the constellation of Gemini, and the famous stars of the Twins, Castor and Pollux, will be seen above and to the left.

There are several faint stars in the area which glasses reveal, a few appearing as bright as Uranus, so the problem is to find out for certain which is the planet. Without a telescope this can only be done by finding out which one of these faint points of light is in motion.

In less than two weeks this should be apparent. The short arrow in the map indicates the direction of Uranus for the next month, after which the planet will reverse and travel the opposite way. The map shows all the stars down to those as bright as Uranus, so it should be easy to spot the one that moves.

It should be a fascinating quest to get a glimpse of a world so far away. At present Uranus is about 1670 million miles distant, and is in fact the farthest world that the naked eye can see.

If Uranus were as near as our Moon, what a splendid and ever-changing spectacle he would present! Unlike our yellowish Luna, Uranus would be greenish with broad belts of varying cloud en-



circling his great sphere, some 15 times wider than our Moon.

The details, instead of appearing always in the same position as on the Moon, would change rapidly, because the planet revolves in only 10½ hours. There would be no craters and rock-strewn surface to view, but cyclonic rents in storm-riven clouds such as are seen on Jupiter.

Uranus would also have his "family" of five moons—Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon—to add to the splendours of such a glorious moonlit sky as we never experience. But we need to bear in mind that if Uranus were as near the Earth as our Moon, our world would have to speed round Uranus because of his much greater mass, for he possesses 14½ times more weight than does our Earth.

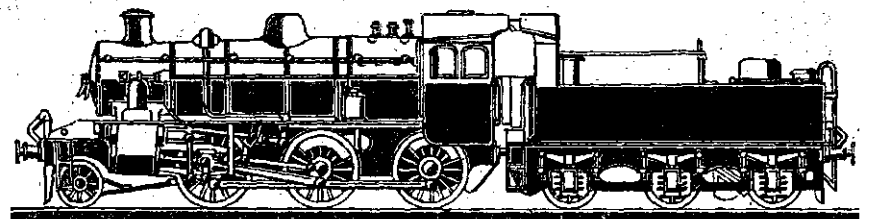
The other satellites of Uranus would, however, be much smaller. Miranda, the nearest to him—only discovered on February 16, 1948—is estimated to be about 500 miles in diameter. Ariel, the next, is about 900 miles across, Umbriel 700 miles, Titania 1700 miles, and Oberon 1500 miles, compared with our Moon's 2160 miles. G.F.M.

TYPING ON THE SKY

SKY-WRITING with a trail of smoke from a plane was once considered by pilots to be a highly-skilled occupation, only attempted after much smokeless practice. Now the old single-handed aerial "handwriting" has been replaced by a more rapid and simpler method.

An American firm has introduced a system known as Sky-typing. Blocks of letters are formed by a series of trails emitted from seven machines flying in formation. The amount of smoke and the time of its release is automatically regulated, so that 13 letters can be written across the sky in about two minutes.

Fortunately, we in this country are spared the sight of messages written in smoke in the heavens.



freight engine types, which are usually about 4-foot diameter.

These engines are Class 2, and are a London, Midland, and Scottish design, built in 1946 before our railways were nationalised. Because they do not run at very high speeds, these engines have a single pair of wheels, the "Pony," at the leading end in place of the four-wheel truck or

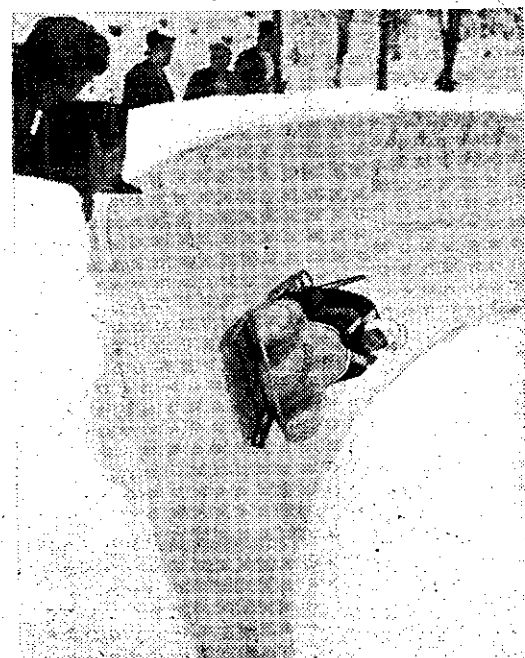
"bogie" on passenger express engines. Behind these two wheels are six coupled wheels, and none behind, enabling us to identify it as a 2-6-0 type known as the Mogul.

These engines have two cylinders carried outside the main frames, and the boiler has a steam pressure of 200 lbs per square inch.

All aglow mid ice and snow



A frozen canal in Holland makes a splendid rink for skaters



A two-seat bob-sleigh banks round a sharp bend at Garmisch



Three-fold fun in America



A cable hoist provides an easy way up the slopes at Champéry, Switzerland



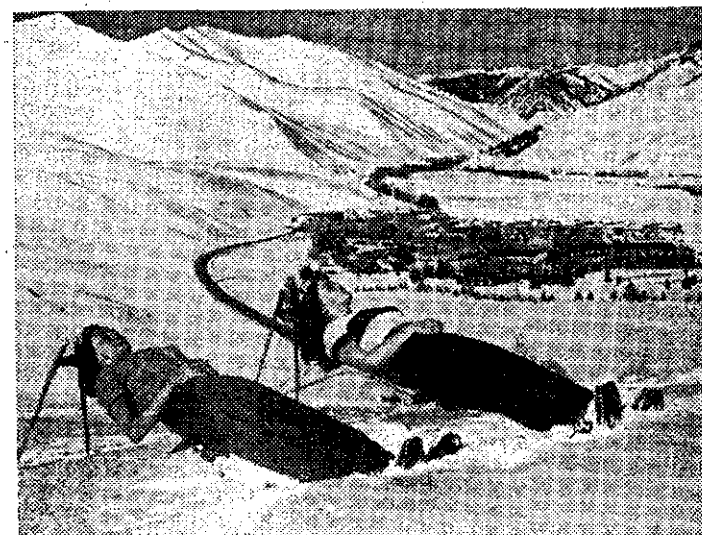
The new steel ski-jump at Garmisch, in Bavaria



Eight-year-old Princess Margriet of Holland takes a tumble in the Austrian Alps



Skaters glide along a tunnel of ice cut through an Alpine glacier



Holiday-makers at Sun Valley, Idaho, use their skis and ski-sticks to rest in the sunshine

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC 4

FEBRUARY 10 1951

HIGHWAY COURTESY

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the campaign of 1951 launched by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. It urges that all should make and keep the one resolution—"I will be courteous at all times on the roads"—a simple rule of conduct that can save countless lives. How many accidents would be avoided, and how much the awful toll of the roads would be lessened, if only we all observed this rule.



Courtesy on the road means sometimes letting the other fellow go first. It means always looking in every direction before crossing a road. It means using the pedestrian crossings intelligently so as not to impede traffic needlessly, or cause all-round distress. It means driving or riding always with the utmost concentration and care.

The only way the problem of our roads can be solved is by practising restraint and courtesy—courtesy in mind and in deed.

PAT ON THE BACK

THE spirit of comradeship that has grown up between Britain and Pakistan was emphasised recently by General Ayub Khan in a tribute to the part played by British officers in the army of this new member of the Commonwealth.

General Ayub Khan is Commander-in-Chief of this new army, and so he speaks with authority.

"I can say with the fullest confidence," he stated, "that a large majority of the British officers who have served with us have rendered or are still rendering great service to Pakistan. If it was not for them the Pakistan Army would not have been what it is today. So Pakistan owes them a great deal of gratitude."

The Editor's Table

Young craftsmen still keen

MORE than 23,000 students sat for the City and Guilds of London Institute examinations last year to get the Institute's recognition that they are good craftsmen. The examinations ranged over a wide field—from hairdressing to the management of steel and iron—but in every case the aim was to keep up the high standard of work.

For centuries Britain has been famed for the quality of its goods, a reputation built up from the days of the craft guilds when every apprentice was required to serve for years at his chosen trade.

It is good to know that although the methods may change as our knowledge grows, the old standards are being maintained. For it is only on the solid foundation of good craftsmanship that profitable trade can result.

AFRICAN VOTERS

AN adventurous political experiment is beginning this week on the Gold Coast, where the Colony's first general election is being held for a Legislative Assembly of which all but nine members out of 84 will be Africans.

Some 663,000 natives, ranging from highly educated people to illiterate peasants, have votes. From the Legislative Council the Governor will appoint native ministers to the Executive Council, which will also have an African majority. Thus the Gold Coast will be the first African colonial territory to have a large measure of self-government.

Britain's intention is to confer self-government on all Colonial peoples when they have shown themselves fitted for it, and she is keeping her word. May this great step forward justify her democratic faith.

JUST AN IDEA

As Socrates wrote: *If all our misfortunes were laid upon one common heap, whence every one must take an equal portion, most people would be content to take their own and depart.*

NOBODY'S CHILD

THE voice of those whose need is greatest is often the weakest voice of all, writes the *Unesco Courier*.

Determined to make the voice of the war orphan heard by everyone, the Unesco Radio Caravan has been doing a magnificent job in touring various war-orphan centres in Europe and carrying out broadcasts from them. Millions of people everywhere have been hearing of the needs of these young children, some of whom have also been sadly crippled by war injuries.

The world must listen to these small voices. "Their claim is just—for love, warmth, food, education, and training in the tools and techniques of the world which is soon to be theirs."

Young champion



Seventeen-year-old Avery Gibson, of North Shields, Northumberland, poses with the trophies she won in the Northern, and the National junior and senior cross-country championships. The photograph on the wall was presented by her club.

A good word for youth

LIVERPOOL'S Director of Education has said a wise and timely word for youth. Mr Magnay believes in the young people of today, and says they have "great health and variety, vigour and enterprise, not sufficiently known or appreciated by adults."

This is the view of most people who have dealings with the young. There is far too much complaining about youth—usually by people who forget their own.

FADED PAGEANT

OUR revels now are ended. These our actors, As I foretold you, were all spirits and

Are melted into air, into thin air: And, like the baseless fabric of this vision, The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces, The solemn temples, the great globe itself, Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve

And, like this insubstantial pageant faded, Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff

As dreams are made on, and our little life Is rounded with a sleep.

Shakespeare

Really efficient scarecrows

A BRITISH firework firm has produced an animated explosive scarecrow, states *British Trade News*. This scarecrow has three wooden slats for arms, a length of rope which burns slowly for eight hours, and some fireworks. Every 20 minutes the burning rope lights a firework which explodes with a loud bang, causing the arms to jump out and fall back with a loud clatter.

This is only a beginning, says an inventive young farming friend of ours. He wants the BBC to provide a bird-scaring service. A wireless set would be placed in a scarecrow and the BBC announcer would exclaim at intervals: "Be off you birds! Whoosh! Cats! Hawks! Your nest is on fire!" and so on.

The scarecrow could also be made to wave its arms if wired to an electric power plug in the farmhouse.

NO FINES FOR THEM

TRAFFIC regulations at Koege in Denmark are strict, and fines are promptly exacted from persons who break them. But boys and girls who use the roads carelessly are asked to call at the police station, and are there given the Highway Code to read, and told to write an essay on it.

It seems an excellent way of reminding young people that it is they who must give a lead in the campaign for road safety.

Go to Edmonton

EDMONTON COUNCIL are planning to give their citizens free washing facilities.

They are to be congratulated. Envious people elsewhere may sneer that these Middlesex folk needed this encouragement, but their shining morning faces and snowy necks will be sufficient answer.

Certainly there can be no excuse for tidemarked necks or grubby hands in boroughs where a wash is free to all. We can even imagine a new term of reproach for unwashed persons—"Go to Edmonton!"

THINGS SAID

TIME and again, in the critical hours of world history, the British race has given the leadership and inspiration that have saved the world.

Lord Bruce of Melbourne

If farmers all over the world got together they could solve many of the problems which are now troubling mankind, for in the farming industry there is a real feeling of brotherhood.

Archbishop of York

THE boy who is familiar with the history of science . . . will develop instinctively a certain scientific approach to the problems of today.

Chairman, Society for Research in Education

REJOICING is a necessary part of getting a job done, and I do not like the doctrine of gloom.

The Lord Chancellor

Song of the drover

O MINE are the fells and the dark mountain passes, The highland and heather and salt of the sea, And the white winding road, And the tall summer grasses, They are given by God to my cattle and me.

And mine is the kiss of the warm wind at even, The drowsy good-night of the burn and the brae, And the gentle-eyed stars That are watching from heaven, They are given by God to my cattle and me.

The flowers and the fields and all tender things living, The blossoms and woods, they are mine without fee, And mine is the heart that can thank God for giving His wonderful world to my cattle and me.

Gunby Hadath
(Copyright)

VARIETY UNENDING

THE truths of Nature are one eternal change, one infinite variety. There's no bush on the face of the globe exactly like another bush; there are no two trees in the forest whose boughs bend into the same network, no two leaves on the same tree which could not be told one from the other.

John Ruskin

Under the Editor's Table



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If reticent people
like reserved seats

WEATHER affects people's memories, says a doctor. When it is fine they forget umbrellas.

SOME dentists are working too fast. They should all pull together.

IT is difficult to ring the changes with meals, says a mother. A dinner bell helps.

A MAN says his new low-combustion stove makes him glow with enthusiasm. Saves fuel.

WATCHING television keeps children from mischief. But they are not all good looking.

AN author has gone to South Africa to get material for a book. Surely the paper shortage is not so acute as all that!

A POSTAL order worth one shilling travelled half round the world before reaching its destination. Making money go a long way.

WORTHING people are asking for a new public clock. Want to pass the time.



OUR HOMELAND

Hill-farming in the Dysynni Valley, Merionethshire.

MODEL-PLANE CHAMPIONS

MODEL aircraft flying is a world-wide sport, and the big event of the year is the Wakefield International Championship. The winner of this is acclaimed as the world's champion aero-modeller.

Each year the "Wakefield" is held in the country which last won the trophy. Finland has set a post-war record by winning in 1949 and 1950, so once again competing teams will journey in early July to Jämsä, a flying school in central Finland.

Up to twenty nations will be represented. Each country is allowed to enter a team of six, so preliminary trials are held to select the men for these coveted places.

There is no age limit—anyone who can build and fly his own Wakefield model can enter. One member of the 1950 British team was over seventy, and in 1936 a 12-year-old boy was a member of the British team who went to America. So far Britain has never failed to send a team to the "Wakefield."

Other countries cannot always find the money to send a team perhaps halfway across the world. Then they send the models, and other aero-modellers fly them for them. Australian, New Zealand, and South African models are usually entered in this way. American and Canadian modellers generally make the journey.

Early in the year some six hundred enthusiasts in this country fly-off the first of their three Trials. Eventually the top hundred will go forward to a final fly-off, and the top six from this group will comprise the 1951 British team.

They will be flown to Finland in an aeroplane specially chartered for the journey. This is the reward for skill in constructing and flying models which do not cost more than a few shillings.

The unlucky ones will simply start re-designing and improving their models ready for the 1952 contest. There is always a "next year."

BORN AT SEA

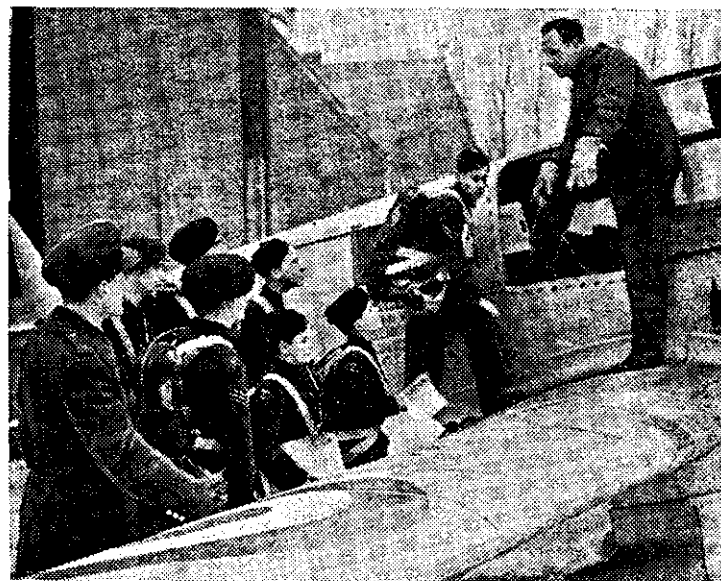
AN interesting logbook has reached the office of the Registrar-General of Shipping at Cardiff. It came from the troopship *Orduna* and recorded the birth of twins, a boy and a girl, on her last voyage.

Unlike other logbooks, which are stored for seven years and then converted into waste paper, this one will be kept; it is the only evidence proving when and where the children were born.

When the last full Census was held, in 1931, 3792 persons in England and Wales, and 417 in Scotland, claimed they had been born at sea.

Contrary to popular belief, children born at sea are not registered in the parish of Stepney. By an ancient rule Christenings in ships had to be entered in the registers of St Dunstan's, Stepney, but that rule is now obsolete, although some captains still keep up the old custom of sending copies of log-book entries of birth to the Vicar of St Dunstan's. They are kept merely as curious.

Tenth Birthday of the ATC



Before going aboard a Proctor for a flight at Hendon, cadets receive instructions from the pilot

THIS month the lads of the ATC have been celebrating the tenth anniversary of their Corps' voluntary part in preparing Britain's air defences.

and within a few months over 200,000 young men had enrolled. Many thousands of the cadets served in the RAF during the war.

The enthusiasm of boys for flying, and the wisdom of helping them to begin their training as future airmen before they are old enough to join the RAF, was recognised before the war, when the Air Defence Cadet Corps was founded. It was re-formed as the Air Training Corps in 1941,

Today boys can join the ATC between the ages of 14 and 18, and use their spare time learning to be airmen. When they join the RAF, either for National Service or as a career, ATC men are given preferential treatment. The present strength of the ATC is about 40,000.



Model planes are in constant use while the lads are studying aircraft recognition



Seated in a Link Trainer, a Southgate cadet learns how to control a plane



Navigation is an important part of the training, and here we see West Drayton cadets in a class



CN National Handwriting Test

PRIZES VALUE OVER £600 *Festival of Britain Year 1951* AWARDS FOR SCHOOLS & PUPILS

ARE you in this great school handwriting competition yet—if not, read on! As already announced, this is a nation-wide test open to all schoolgirls and schoolboys under seventeen who are full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and also Eire. Schools and teachers throughout this area are invited to co-operate.

There is NO entrance fee. Each entrant is simply asked to copy the Test Passage (given on the special Entry Form) in the style of writing he or she is taught at school.

The Test Passage is a simple paragraph expressing the idea and aims of the Festival of Britain to be held this year.

The Entry Forms are for issue only to schools, but each pupil's entry will be judged as his or her personal effort. Over 1500 prizes, totalling more than £600 in value, will be awarded for the best entries.

To give an equal opportunity to all, there are THREE AGE GROUPS with cash prizes for both pupils and schools—you can thus win for yourself and your school! Here is the full prize list:

• Cash Prizes in Each Group

1st PRIZES		2nd PRIZES		3rd PRIZES	
For School -	£25	For School -	£10	For School -	£5
Prize-winning Pupil -	£5	Prize-winning Pupil -	£3	Prize-winning Pupil -	£2

500 Festival Souvenir Fountain-Pens

1000 Geographical Globes

Also 10,000 Awards of Merit

A Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the pupil who sends the best entry from each school not represented in the above prize list.

Readers are asked carefully to note that entries must be made on the special free Entry Form issued only through schools. If you would like to enter, therefore, show this announcement to your Teacher and ask him or her kindly to complete the coupon here and send it to C.N. Remember, there is an age group for you. The test may be done in school or at home, at the discretion of the Teacher, who is asked to sign the entry on completion.

When sent in, every entry is to have affixed to it one of the tokens (marked C.N. Writing Test 1951) now appearing in every copy of the Newspaper. You will find one at the foot of the back page of this issue.

The Closing Date for entries is Saturday, March 17. When returned, each completed entry is to be sent in as part of the school's total entry, in accordance with the competition rules printed on the Entry Form.

TO TEACHERS! The Entry Form to be used in this competition contains the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort, and full rules and particulars. It is being issued only in answer to school application! Teachers desiring to enter their pupils are asked to be good enough to complete this application coupon, and send it to Children's Newspaper as soon as possible. The forms will then be sent post free. Last date for form applications is February 20.

(NB—1d stamp only required for this coupon if the envelope is left unsealed.)

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER Competition Department,
5 Carmelite Street, London, EC4 (Comp).

Please send me (post free).....copies of the C.N. National Handwriting Test of 1951 Entry Forms for my pupils.

PRINCIPAL/FORM
MASTER OF MISTRESS

School.....

School Address.....

NEW WINGS IN ETHIOPIA

Air travel is becoming popular in Ethiopia, where the inhabitants are realising its time-saving advantages.

Five years ago the Imperial Ethiopian Government, with the technical assistance of Trans World Airline, started a service between Addis Ababa, the capital, and neighbouring countries in Central Africa. Passengers wishing to journey abroad fly north to Cairo, and there link-up with the world's main air routes.

During 1948 the airline carried 12,500 passengers, a figure which steadily increased to 20,400 for the first nine months of 1950. When the total for the whole year becomes available it is expected to be double that for 1948.

Up-to-date planes

Dakotas have borne most of the traffic, but now two of the latest Convairliners have been delivered to carry passengers on the Nairobi and Cairo services.

Flying well above the turbulent currents rising from the Abyssinian Highlands, the Convairliners will cruise at about 290 m.p.h.—nearly twice the speed of the elderly Dakotas. Their comfortable cabins are fully pressurised for medium altitude operation, and will seat 40 passengers.

HE REMEMBERS LIVINGSTONE

MR MICHAEL KIETERMASTER, a radio official, recently set out to record a programme in the Bemba language of Central Africa. His most interesting record was a conversation with Mumana, an aged headman in Chief Kopa's district, who remembers Livingstone coming to his village during the great missionary-explorer's last journey.

Mumana remembers him looking at the sun "with a machine," and described how as a boy he watched Livingstone gather his followers round him in the

In 1767 Richard Arkwright, a barber, heard of Hargreave's new invention that enabled weavers to produce material quickly. He saw that the old-fashioned spinning-wheel method of cotton yarn production could not keep pace with the demand.



Pioneers 44. RICHARD ARKWRIGHT, founder of the cotton factory

Arkwright constantly came in contact with people engaged in spinning and weaving, recognised the urgent need for a machine-spun yarn, and gave up his business to make experiments.



His machines proved most successful, but like many other pioneers his inventions were distrusted and he was reduced to near-poverty by the destruction of one of his mills by rioting crowds.

Arkwright survived this attack, and prospered. Cotton manufacture became one of the foremost industries of England. He was knighted in 1786.



Postal service through the centuries

AN exhibition where postmen "go to school" has been reopened with some additions after a complete overhaul at Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham, Middlesex, formerly the home of Rowland Hill, who introduced the penny post.

This is the Post Office History Exhibition, a national collection where more than 50,000 old documents, items of dress and Post Office equipment and specimens of the latest slogan postmarks form the only official record, open to the public, of the British postal service. It covers a period of 550 years.

The exhibition began its life as the private collection of a

Nottingham telephone manager, and was bought by the Union of Post Office Workers in the early 1920's. In 1927 the Tottenham Council was persuaded to take it over and house it in Bruce Castle.

Latest additions include a 110-year-old log book of H.M. Packet *Sea Gull*, bound for Vera Cruz from Falmouth; a mail coachman's ivory pass, 200 years old, giving him right of way through the Royal Parks; a Mail Guard's revolver of about 1820, and an illustrated leaflet from an 1862 Letter Carrier asking, in 40 lines of verse, for a Christmas Box, and ending:

*He knows his friends will not
the claims forget
Of him who serves them
through the cold and wet.*

Equipment on show ranges from a postboy's boots of the Cromwellian period to marline-spikes used by postal packet-boat sailors during illicit privateering in the Napoleonic wars.

The exhibition also contains some of the finest specimens in existence of early postmarks, stamps, and log books. The earliest document is a parchment pay claim made by a King's Messenger, Perrot Henault, who was carrying letters summoning the nobles of Normandy to an Exchequer Court, to be held in

1397. His letter was addressed to the Master of the King's Post who was serving under Richard the Second.

Strangest mailbag is one used by the people of St Kilda until comparatively modern times. It has a cocoa tin attached with a key inside and a large wooden tag with the words "Please Open" burnt into it, and was despatched by being cast into the sea.

Mr C. H. Rock, the Curator of the Museum, is organising visits by schoolchildren from all parts of the Home Counties. Others who visit it at intervals are postmen trainees, who are sent there by the Post Office authorities.

MR PARKER WAS TOO NOSY

A TAME fox named Mr Parker, who has lived in a house in Aberdeen since he was taken there as a cub, decided recently to stroll round the city. When someone left the door open he slipped out, and was soon involved in terrifying adventures.

To begin with, a cyclist started chasing him, ringing his bell and shouting "Fox, fox!" as though a fox were a flying saucer, or an animal from Mars. More humans joined in the chase, and Mr Parker soon wished he had stopped at home.

THE FRENCH YOU DO NOT LEARN

To many people in this country, where the dialects of the shires have always been fostered, it will come as a surprise to learn that in France a law was recently passed permitting the teaching of French regional dialects. Hitherto only standard French was recognised.

The best-known of the French regional languages are Basque (the oldest in Europe), Breton (closely allied to Welsh), and Provençal (also called Langue d'oc or Occitanian). Each has a long history, differs widely from standard French, and possesses its own literature.

Troubadour language

Provençal, for example, was the language used by the troubadours, the romantic medieval poets of Southern France. Often a troubadour would spend several years in the castle of a count of Provence or Toulouse, or at the court of a King of Aragon. Princely gifts were frequently the reward of a pleasing song in honour of a patron.

The songs of the "sweet singers of Provence" must be ranked among the treasures of France, and if the new law ensures that Provençal, along with the other local dialects, remains a living language, Western culture will be immensely enriched.

KIDNAPPED—R. L. Stevenson's Great Romance of Jacobite Scotland (12)

David Balfour was now within sight of Queensferry, where dwelt the lawyer, Mr Rankeillor, to whom he wanted to tell his misfortunes. For David believed he had been

cheated out of his inheritance of the Shaws estate by his crafty uncle Ebenezer, who had had David kidnapped on board a ship to be sold as a slave in the Carolinas.

David's only hope was that this lawyer, whom he had never seen, would help him to obtain his rights, in spite of his association with Alan Breck, the Jacobite.



With the girl's help, David and Alan safely crossed the water, and David went to find Mr Rankeillor while Alan hid until nightfall. David found Mr Rankeillor's house and, the lawyer, a kindly man, asked him in and listened to his adventures. Mr Rankeillor said that Ebenezer had told him he had given David money with which to tour the Continent. The lawyer had not believed this and had been worried about David.



He explained that David's father, Alexander, had been the heir to the Shaws, but had made a peculiar bargain with his brother Ebenezer. As young men they were in love with the same girl, and they had agreed that Ebenezer should take the Shaws, and Alexander should marry the girl. But when Alexander died, David became the legal heir, and that was why Ebenezer, grown into an old miser, had tried to get rid of him.



But, said Mr Rankeillor, it would not be easy to dispossess Ebenezer. If they went to law against him, the charge of kidnapping would be difficult to prove, for they could not bring Alan as a witness, as he was a proscribed Jacobite. Then David thought of a scheme for trapping Ebenezer, and this impressed the lawyer. He, his clerk, and David set out to find Alan and take him with them to the Shaws, where old Ebenezer lived alone.

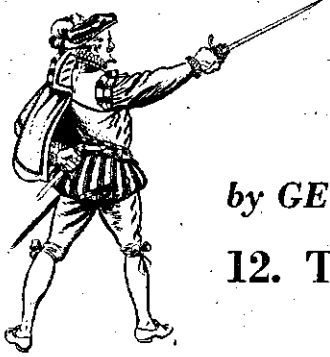


Mr Rankeillor was doubtful about the propriety of his knowing a rebel like Alan, so he pretended he thought his name was "Mr Thomson," whom he could not discern without his glasses.



The four went to the Shaws, and while Alan banged on the door, the other three hid. Soon the old miser stuck his head out and cried: "This is nae time of night for decent folk. What brings ye here? I have a blunderbuss."

Will Alan trap Ebenezer into a confession of his guilt? See the final instalment of this grand story next week



The Silver Gentleman

by GEOFFREY TREASE

12. The Conspirators Unmasked

WE should catch up with the royal party before they reach the city boundary," Martin Sherwood panted. He bent forward and patted his horse's neck encouragingly. The long ride was almost at an end—but what would the end be?

Below them, at the foot of the steep hill, the river Cherwell wound blue under the summer sky to join the broader waters of the Thames. In the angle between the two rivers the grey and biscuit-coloured towers and spires of Oxford huddled behind their walls. Bells rang from every church to welcome the Queen, whose mounted party was moving slowly towards the bridge.

"Is it wise to approach her now?" said Judith. She was

the Guard. "She is about to receive the official welcome of the University—look, the Vice-Chancellor and all the scholars are gathered on the bridge—"

"I must see Her Majesty," said Martin doggedly.

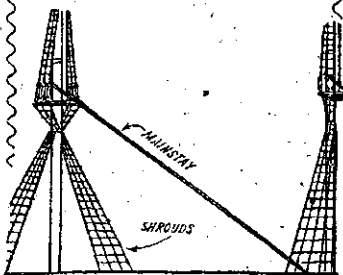
The curtains of the coach parted. The Queen, her face streaky with unfinished make-up, demanded in her brisk voice: "Who is this—who must see Her Majesty?" Martin swept off his hat and went down on one knee. "What is it?" she rasped. "Young Sherwood? And you, Mistress Massingham?" Her voice took on a less friendly tone. "I thought you were in Wiltshire, miss." Her shrewd eyes flickered from the one to the other. She knew they would not have ventured into her presence without good reason. "Well, well, what is it?" she demanded impatiently. "Speak quickly and in plain English—I shall have enough long speeches in dead languages when I get among these learned scholars!"

"Then I will speak plainly, madam," Martin rose and stepped forward to the door of the coach. "Some time ago your Majesty called me into her special service. You were troubled with secret enemies, but could not find out their names."

"If you're to speak as plainly as that, young man, you had best speak low. Stand away, the rest of ye! I give Master Sherwood five minutes. It won't hurt the Vice-Chancellor to wait that long—he can be polishing up his Latin and Greek. Well, young man, what have you found?"

Sailors say . . .

(The nautical origins of terms in everyday use.)



2. MAINSTAY

As can be seen in the sketch, this stay extends from the maintop to the foot of the foremast. It takes all the backward pull of the shrouds, and if it parted the ship would probably be dismayed.

When used ashore to describe the "mainstay" of the family or business, its use is very apt.

MARTIN took a deep breath. "There is a plot with Spain, madam—"

"That's no surprise!"

"But this is the most dangerous there has ever been. Besides your exiled enemies abroad there is a strong party here at home, working with them."

"Names, then—names!"

"Lord Somerbridge, Sir Jervis Murry—"

"You mean this? How d'you know? Who else?"

"Richard Strang—"

"I can scarcely credit it! Who's the ringleader?"

Martin took a deep breath. "It seems incredible, madam, after all the favours you have shown him. It's the Earl of Copeland."

"What?" She was so astounded she uttered a shrill laugh. Then the blood rushed to her face so that the skin showed dark between the smears of make-up. Suddenly she leant through the coach window and gave him such a resounding box on the ear that he staggered back. "Impertinence! Henry, Henry, come here a moment—listen to the latest fairy-tale about you!"

DISDAINFULLY the Earl of Copeland stepped from the knot of courtiers. He looked at Martin, his eyebrows rose, but he gave no sign of recognition.

"What is it now, madam?"

"First, they told me you'd married this girl here! And now they tell me you're plotting with Spain against me—you, Henry, of all people! Do they think I'm doddering? Why do they come to me with such nonsense?"

The Earl smiled. There was a look of complete self-confidence on his cold features. "The motives are obvious, madam. I enjoy your favour—that makes me the most envied man in England, and envy breeds lies."

"Prettily spoken, Henry! Well, what shall I do with this young rascal?"

The Earl hesitated. "With your permission, madam, I should like . . . to ask him some questions afterwards."

"By all means. But we've delayed long enough. Mustn't keep the worthy scholars waiting for ever. Young man, take off that sword! Consider yourself under arrest! You must come along with us, just for now—but mind you behave yourself—I'll not have my public entry into Oxford upset with any foolishness!"

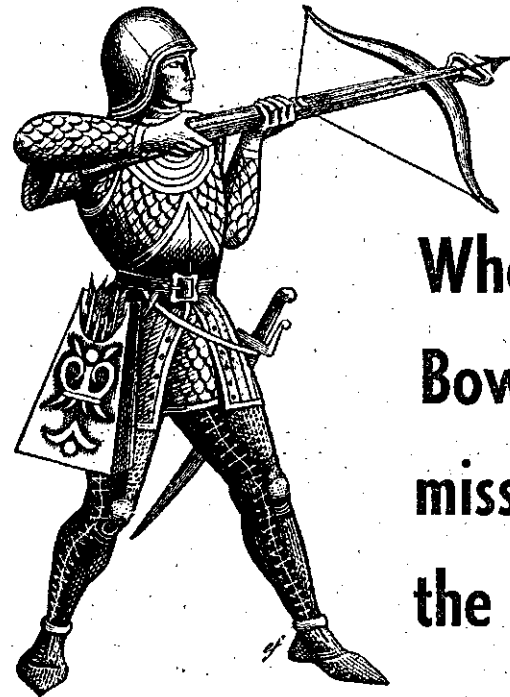
"I think I can guarantee, madam," said the Earl grimly, "that Master Sherwood will not attempt to escape."

So Martin entered Oxford in the Queen's retinue, a prisoner, though without chains.

As the trumpets brayed and the bells clashed joyfully overhead, he could not help wondering ruefully why it was that men were prepared to serve and to die for this extraordinary queen. Quick-tempered, vain, given to favouritism—she was full of human faults. But there was something else about her which made her beloved, which made her life precious to England, and made men go on serving her, even when they got no gratitude.

The royal coach rumbled over the bridge and stopped to receive the welcome of the University. In cap and gown the learned Doctors clustered at the foot of Magdalen Tower. Behind them

Continued on page 10



Where the Bowman missed the mark

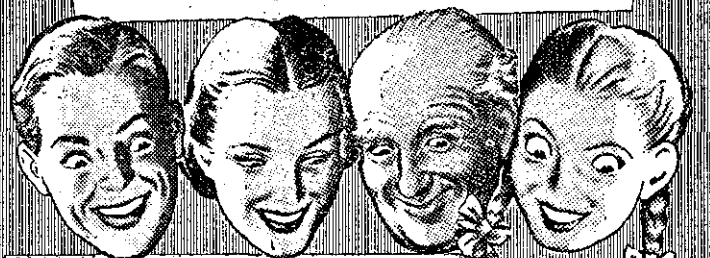
THE mediæval bowmen were experts in the art of attack, but about protecting their teeth they knew nothing. Macleans Peroxide Solid Dentifrice was still a thing of the future, and dentists had not yet arrived on the scene. No-one realized then the importance of Macleaning the teeth night and morning. But now everyone knows you must . . .

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The Silver Gentleman

Continued from page 9

were the-serried ranks of the Masters of Arts, and behind them again the Bachelors and the scholars, mere boys in their teens.

The Vice-Chancellor stepped forward, doffed his mortar-board and bowed, and plunged into a seemingly endless Latin speech. The courtiers stood respectfully swallowing their yawns. Few, if any, were as fine Latinists as the Queen herself—and none certainly had the same interest in the speech.

To Martin, whose Latin was now only a dim memory, it seemed that the speech would go on for ever. It ended at last, but to his dismay another venerable gentleman stepped forward and launched into an oration more flowery than the first.

The Queen's smile became somewhat fixed. Under her sweeping farthingale, her small foot was tapping the ground with impatience.

SUDDENLY her face changed. Her foot was still. She became intent. Noting the change in her manner, Martin stared round. There was nothing to account for it. The crowd was as before, patient but bored.

Last of all, Martin's eye went to the white-haired, long-gowned Doctor of Divinity, peering short-sightedly at the parchment scroll from which he was reading. There was something vaguely familiar about him... The fingers holding the parchment—good heavens, they were not wrinkled and bony like an old man's, they were the neat, well-manicured fingers he had so often seen glittering with rings!

The Queen's voice rang out briskly. "Da mihi epistolam!" Even Martin remembered enough Latin to understand that. "Give me the letter!" The old man stepped forward and handed her a paper which had been hidden within the larger parchment.

Elizabeth raised her voice and said in a few fluent sentences of thanks. Then, as the scholars threw up their caps and cheered, she turned to the Captain of the Guard and said quietly in English:

"Place the Earl of Copeland under close arrest. He is to send no messages, and speak to no one. Find all the men whose names are signed on this letter and send them to the Tower. No slips, mind—they are dangerous. Not one is to escape!" She turned again to the learned orator, and her voice trembled a little. "You can remove those borrowed plumes, old friend. It seems I misjudged you in that little matter years ago—and that old friends are best!"

A gasp of amazement went up from the crowd, as cap and gown were flung aside and the false white hair after them, and a younger, straighter figure stepped forward to kiss her outstretched hand—a figure in cream and grey, whose doublet shone with the soft lustre of innumerable pearls.

"You are welcome back to Court, My Lord Meriton," she said, clearly enough for all to hear. Then, in a lower voice which Martin was yet near enough to catch: "You have served me faithfully, Jack—more faithfully than I deserved."

Then, for the first time, Martin knew that he was seeing the exiled Lord Meriton, whose name and exploits had been a legend in his own boyhood. But the face he saw, which now turned to greet him with a smile, was the face of the Silver Gentleman.

THE END

And there we bid farewell to Martin, Judith, and The Silver Gentleman—Lord Meriton. Their place will be taken over by The Gallant Third of Milbourne, lively characters in a amusing new series of school yarns by Gunby Hadath.

BEDTIME CORNER

Ann feeds the birds
WHEN snow has fallen in the night,
And draped the earth in robes of white,
I sweep a space clear on the ground,
While hungry birds come fluttering round.
Starlings, sparrows, robins too,
Tit-mice, with their caps of blue.
Eagerly they eat the scraps,
Take a drink as well, perhaps.
I watch them from my window seat—
We all enjoy this pleasant treat.

A PRAYER

O LORD, the author and persuader of peace, love, and good will, soften my heart that I may wish well of all others, and be a true disciple. Give me grace to begin to show forth that heavenly life wherein there is no hatred, but peace and love one towards another.

Riddle

WHY is a drawn tooth like something you have forgotten? Because it has quite gone out of your head.

DOLLS MADE FROM ACORNS



These acorn dolls were made by a CN reader—13-year-old Angela Crump of Orpington, Kent.



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Coal-mine under a church

A historic church in Warwickshire is to "float" in a concrete "boat" on waves of vibrations in the earth which will be caused by coal-miners burrowing under the church. It is Astley Church, which stands on what has been called "a pillar of coal" worth about £1,800,000. Nearby is more coal worth some £3,000,000.

The National Coal Board has been tackling the problem of getting out this treasure of coal without damaging the historic treasures above it. For Astley is Lady Jane Grey's village; in the castle she lived as a studious little girl, severely treated by her parents, but excelling in Greek, Latin, French, and Italian. Her hobby was learning. From her window she looked across at this church, where lifesize figures of three of her ancestors can still be seen.

The old sundial

There was a Saxon church here, and its sundial was probably placed on the tower of the church when it was rebuilt by Thomas Astley 600 years ago, and retained when the present 16th-century church was built.

The King's England book of Warwickshire (Hodder and Stoughton) tells us: "Almost everywhere in this much-altered church are signs of its old glory. In the north wall is a doorway filled up with a fine old arch and a worn face at the top. On the south wall is a headless brass, one of the oldest in Warwickshire, for its date is about 1400. Probably it represented a lady of the Astleys, and very graceful she must have looked, in kirtle and mantle and tasselled cord."

Now our industrial age seeks to grope under this ancient shrine. £15,000 is to be spent on protecting it. For, said the National Coal Board's representative recently, "Astley Church could not be replaced by money, compensation, or rebuilding."

SPORTS SHORTS

NEXT July the MCC are sending a team to Canada for a six-week tour. This will be the second cricket visit to Canada—an MCC team played 19 matches there in 1937.

JAMES LANGRIDGE, 44-year-old professional, has been re-appointed captain of Sussex for the forthcoming season. Last year he narrowly missed the "double" of 1000 runs and 100 wickets for the seventh time.

THREE of our youngest table tennis stars are now touring in Scandinavia—17-year-old John Hunt, Metropolitan junior champion, and two 15-year-olds, Jeffrey Ingber, from Manchester, and Cliff Booth, Merseyside junior champion. Five countries will compete in the junior international tournament at Stockholm on February 16.

ALEX TAYLOR is a young Canadian who wants to be a speedway star. He is so keen that he is working his way from his home in Vancouver to ride at West Ham in the opening meetings at the end of March. He has, of course, ridden many times on Canadian tracks.

THE COMPLETE PUPPETEER

HARD to please would be the boy or girl who did not rejoice on hearing that his school intended to introduce puppetry as a recreational and educational activity. For this old craft of producing puppet-plays is grand fun, as well as a team game in which everyone can play a helpful part.

Puppetry is having a great revival in this country today, and a recently-published book tells all there is to know about the subject from an educational point of view. This is *The Puppet Book* (Faber and Faber, 21s), and it is likely to find its way to the bookshelves of many schools. It has been written by different members of the Educational Puppetry Association, and edited by the chairman, Mr L. V. Wall.

The writers deal with all the uses of puppetry, from nursery schools to adult groups. The making, dressing, and manipulation of puppets, as well as the construction of puppet theatres of all kinds, are fully described. Enthusiasts can find out how to make glove puppets, marionettes worked by strings, rod puppets, and the flat figures which are the modern descendants of the "penny plain and tuppence coloured" of the toy theatre.

He built 1000 organs

THE greatest organ-builder of Victorian times died on February 11, just 50 years ago.

Organ-building seems an odd sort of craft to fascinate a boy, but young Henry Willis not only taught himself to play the organ, but became interested in its mechanism, and loved to explore organ lofts.

"I'm going to build organs when I'm a man," he said; and he lived to build more than a thousand!

When Henry Willis was 14—he was born in 1821—he was apprenticed to an organ-builder. At 24 he set up on his own, and two years later had his first success when he rebuilt the Gloucester Cathedral organ, a task which earned him £400.

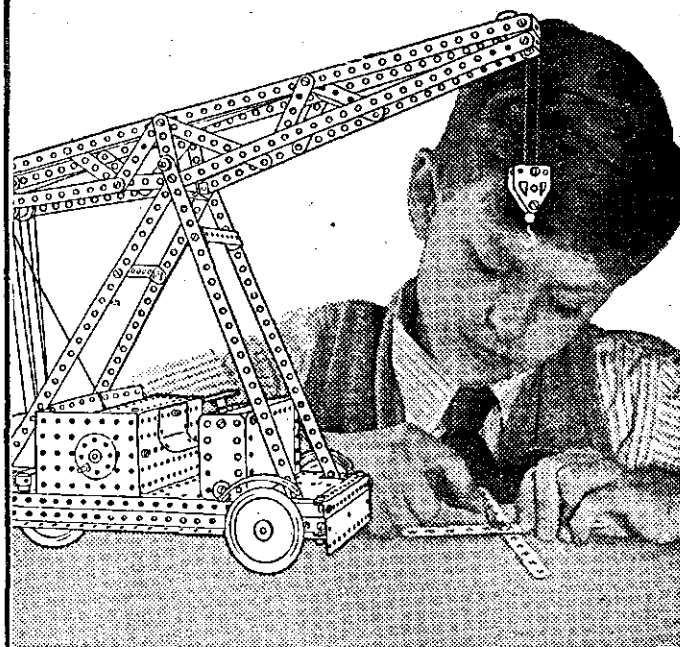
He spent the rest of his long life making organs and inventing improvements for them. He built the big organ for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and organs for the Albert Hall, the Alexandra Palace, and several of our cathedrals. Countless people have been inspired, and still are, by music swelling from instruments built under his direction.

Henry Willis loved yachting, and once sailed right round Great Britain in his own yacht.

DECLINE OF DOBBIN

OFFICIAL figures record a decline in the number of farm horses in every county. Cheshire in 1948 had 12,860, but now has only 9655, and Lancashire's 20,666 in 1948 has been reduced to 15,811.

In the whole of Wales there are now only 39,000 farm horses, though Yorkshire still has as many as 46,000. But next after Yorkshire comes Devonshire with 18,895, and Norfolk with 17,057. Both Middlesex and Rutland have fewer than 800 farm horses.



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THE BRAN TUB

Cheap

"I DON'T like the ring of this half-crown," said the shop-keeper.

"What do you expect for half-a-crown," demanded the customer—"a peal of bells?"

February halves

THE names of six famous people are hidden here, all with February anniversaries. Can you match their heads and tails? They are: an actor, two composers, a natural scientist, and a great divine (all British), and a German religious reformer.

KEM MAN
HAN WIN
GER BLE
LUT MAN
DAR DEL
NEW HER

Answer next week

Why?

It's strange the plural word for mouse.

Instead of "mouses" should be "mice."

But that we always call grouse "grouse"—

Why aren't they called just "grice?"

Bitter pill

"EVERY time I take my castor-oil," said Tommy, "Mummie puts twopence in my money-box."

"And what happens when the box is full?" asked his friend.

"She buys a new bottle of castor-oil."

Farmer Gray explains

A Curious Cocoon. On the hawthorn hedge, firmly cemented to a stem. Don saw a pale brown, oblong cocoon; it was nearly an inch long.

"It is the cocoon of a hawthorn sawfly, and has been there all the winter," said Farmer Gray in answer to Don's inquiries. "You can tell when the sawfly has flown because it will leave a neatly cut little lid at the top of the cocoon. Hawthorn sawflies have clubbed antennae, and wings which measure well over an inch across. When in the larval state the green grubs are covered with a mealy, white powder."

Jacko and Chimp have lofty ideas



THE sudden thaw caused Jackotown to be covered with several inches of slush, and Jacko and Chimp to revise their ideas about transport. This revision was aided by some strong words of Father Jacko's about "young hooligans getting soaking wet." After thinking hard Jacko and Chimp decided that stilts were the answer. And so, a few hours later, they were strolling through the High Street two feet above ground. The idea certainly stopped them getting soaking wet—but it certainly helped to make other people wetter than they might have been!

Beheading

I'm getting bigger, yes, I am. Chop off my head, and there remains

A very well-known water sport Which calls for fitness, strength, and brains.

Behead once more, and you will see

That something has not yet been paid.

Behead again and lo, you'll find What birds extend when flights are made.

Answer next week

Countryside flowers

NESTLING beneath a sheltered hedgerow, the diminutive flowers of the Barren Strawberry may be found. The five

white petals grow slightly apart, just sufficient to show a little of the ten green sepals. The plant's stems are hairy, while the three-lobed leaves have toothed edges and their undersides are very silky.

Although bearing a close resemblance to the true wild strawberry, the flowers of the barren strawberry are smaller, and bloom much earlier in the year.



Do you know that . . . ?

SOME 54,000 full-blooded Ab-origines live in the remote areas of Northern Australia and the interior. They exist in the primitive style of the Stone Age and use the boomerang, stone knife, and tomahawk.

THERE are about 50,000 lakes in Finland. These are set in immense forests which cover nearly three-quarters of the country.

THE Nile floods are due to the Abyssinian tributaries of the river. These are fed by the heavy monsoon rains and are not due to the melting of the winter snows on the mountains.

THE North Pole is in the middle of a great Arctic Ocean of considerable depth, whereas the South Pole is in the centre of an immense lofty Antarctic continent.

A STRONG healthy camel can drink as much as sixty quarts of water at a time. Given fresh green vegetation, it might not need watering for three or four weeks. However, in the hot season, it should drink something every day.

Blow

A BOISTEROUS huntsman from Mourne

Blew a shattering blast on his horn.

He created a breeze Which uprooted huge trees. And flattened ten acres of corn.

Jumbled castles

IF the letters of the following word and phrases are properly rearranged, they will spell the names of six famous castles of England:

FORCE SOW RIND
LOW THINKER I BEAR CORK SO
THE SCORER LURE DAN

Answer next week

Not her doing

MOLLY was reproved by her mistress for leaving dust on the sideboard.

"Why, Molly," she said, "there is quite a month's dust gathered there."

"Then, ma'am, it can't be me that's done it. I've only been here a fortnight."

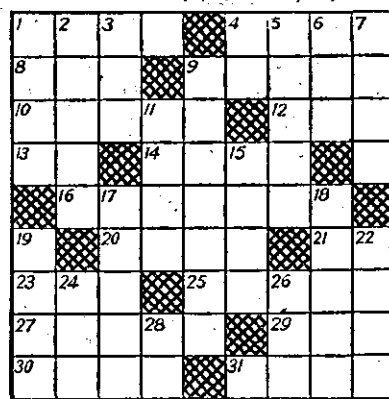
Crossword puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Pierce. 4 Lasting hostility. 8 A rainbow forms one. 9 Obliterate. 10 Foul-smelling. 12 Observe. 13 Early English (abbrev). 14 Get up. 16 Dignified. 20 Indigo. 21 That is (abbrev). 23 Lubricate. 25 Of greater age. 27 Sound of pain. 29 He wrote Kidnapped. 30 Despatched. 31 Vein of metal ore.

Reading Down. 1 Unharmed. 2 Forests are full of these. 3 Represent. 4 Frances (abbrev). 5 An artist uses this. 6 Employ. 7 An act. 9 Whole issue of books. 11 Another name for Persia. 15 Dispose of. 17 Claw. 18 Produce. 19 Marshes. 22 Old form of Irish. 24 Rage. 26 Daily Routine Order (abbrev). 28 Proposition.

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, February 10, 1951



Helpful

This notice was put up in an area liable to floods:

WHEN this board is under water the road is impassable.

Last week's answers

Beheading. Clover, lover, over

Jumbled flowers

Geranium, cornflower, carnation, honeysuckle, petunia, sunflower

A Mystery. A hole



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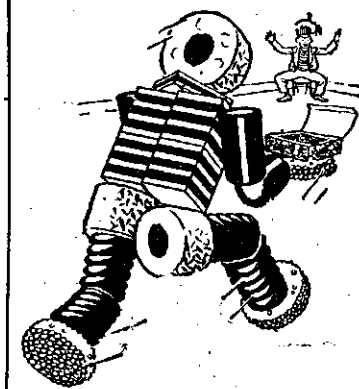
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